

From: Amato, Paul
Sent: Thur 2/11/2016 6:42:51 PM
Subject: Water Weekly Report for the Week Ending February 12, 2016

Also available at the Water Division SharePoint Site:

<https://usepa.sharepoint.com/sites/R9/WTR>

(note: the RA reads the Divisional weeklies the following Monday which is why the items listed under 'Last Week' are for activities occurring this week and 'Significant Items for This Week' are items for next week.)

WEEKLY REPORT

Region 9

Environmental Protection Agency

Week Ending February 12, 2016

Water Division

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Significant Items from Last Week (February 8 - 12)

California Requests Expansion of Aquifer Exemptions: On February 8th, the CA Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) submitted to Region 9 a request to expand the boundaries of an existing aquifer exemption within the Arroyo Grande oil field in San Luis Obispo County. The package from DOGGR, with State Board concurrence, is the first of about 50 such requests that we expect the state to submit for new and expanded aquifer exemptions. These exemption requests, when approved, would allow for the continued injection of fluids for enhanced oil recovery and waste water disposal and are a key element of the state's efforts to return their Class II Underground Injection Control program into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. (Albright, 2-3971)

Significant Items for This Week (February 16 – 19. February 15 is a Holiday)

None

Significant Items for Next 2-3 Weeks (next few weeks)

None

Travel, Training, Public/National Meetings and Speaking Engagements

Stormwater Permit Engagement at Congressional Forum: On February 16, David Smith will join state and local representatives in speaking at a forum organized by Representative Napolitano in Monrovia to explore issues that arise in the implementation of NPDES municipal stormwater permits in Southern California. Smith will discuss basic regulatory requirements and financial challenges communities face in implementing permits, and finance opportunities. (Smith 2-3464)

EPA Convenes Workshop to Improve California's Source Water Protection: We are convening a source water protection workshop on March 1st and 2nd in Sacramento along with the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water. The workshop will include discussions on current efforts to protect sources of drinking water and will develop an action plan of next steps. This is a significant step as the State Board's drinking water program has lagged in developing a proactive program to prevent contamination of drinking water sources. (Li, 2-3560 & Leon-Guerrero, 2-3444)

Developing Communication and Collaboration in Water Division: On February 4th and 5th, 35 Water Division staff and managers participated in an engaging training course focusing on communication and collaboration skills necessary for effective leadership. Taught by Stephen Groner, the course was similar to one provided during the recent Environmental Leadership Development Program. Participants plan to explore opportunities to practice skills taught and potential barriers to their use. (Smith 2-3464)

Significant Items in 30-60 Days

None

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Grant Announcements

Region 9 Coordinating National Competition for Tribal Non-Point Source Grants:

EPA has initiated the review process for the national CWA 319 tribal competitive non-point source pollution grant program. Nationally, 49 tribes applied for funding under the request for proposals; maximum grant awards are up to \$100,000 and approximately \$2.5 million is available for this grant program. Eligible activities include the development of watershed-based plans and on-the-ground efforts that will solve non-point source impairments. Region 9 is coordinating the national competition this year; project selection will be completed by April 30th. (Kahan, 2-3143)

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Legislative Engagement

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Other Information

Division Director Schedule (February 16 – 19. February 15 is a Holiday): Tomás Torres will be in all week.